RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

CRANBROOK.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

Cranbrook Rural Sanitary District

FOR THE YEAR 1914,

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.

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CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.

Area and Population.

The following Tables give the area, population of the District, and other figures, as shown by the Census of 1911 and previous years: –

No. of Regn. District	Area in Statute Acres.		Inhabited Houses.				Population.			
	Land and Inland Water	Inland Water only.	1881	1891	1901	1911	1881	1891	1901	1911
53	41,315	110	2,754	2,787	2,834	3,100	13,761	13,730	12,944	13,689

Cols. 1.	Area in Statute acres (Land & Inland Water). 2.	Families or Separate Occupiers. 1901. 3.	Families or Separate Occupiers. 1911. 4.	Population. 1901. Persons. 5.	Population. 1911. Persons. 6.	Population. 1911. Males. 7.	Population. 1911. Females. 8.	Institutions, large establishments, Vessels, etc., 1911 (included in Cols. 4 & 6). No. 9.	Institutions, large establishments, Vessels, etc., 1911 (included in Cols. 4 & 6). Population. 10.
Benenden ...	6,693	312	327	1,336	1,434	768	666	5	136
Cranbrook ..	10,372	864	916	3,949	4,061	2,004	2,057	10	237
Frittenden ...	3,509	194	212	844	898	436	462	4	22
Goudhurst ...	9,797	598	663	2,725	3,019	1,499	1,520	17	261
Hawkhurst ...	6,523	706	793	3,136	3,344	1,544	1,800	6	178
Sandhurst ...	4,421	222	231	954	933	459	474	—	—
Totals.....	41,315	2,896	3,142	12,944	13,689	6,710	6,979	42	834

The **Population** of the Cranbrook Rural District estimated to the middle of 1914 was 13,959, an increase of 89 on 1913, and 270 on the census of 1911.

Births and the Birth-rate.—There were 279 births registered in the district, and one birth transferred to the district from outside, making the **net births 290** and the **net birth-rate 20·7**, compared with 22·2 for the whole of Rural England and Wales.

Deaths and the Death-rate.—The gross number of deaths registered in the district was 170, giving a crude rate of 12·2, which, when corrected by the factor for the district, gives a standardised rate of 10·3. 18 deaths occurred in the district of people who did not belong to it, and 15 deaths were transferred to the district of residents who died outside it, and when the gross number registered is modified by these figures the net number of **deaths** is **168** and the **net death-rate 12·0.**

There were 3 deaths due to one or other of the following epidemic diseases, and I give the rate per 1,000 living for this district and for Rural England and Wales:—

		Rate per 1,000 living.	
		Cranbrook Rural.	Rural England and Wales.
Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years) ..	1	0·071	12·64
Diphtheria	—	0· 0	0·14
Measles	—	0· 0	0·12
Whooping-cough	2	0· 14	0·17
Enteric Fever	—	0· 0	0·05
Scarlet Fever	—	0· 0	0·06
Small-pox	—	0· 0	0·00
	3	0· 21	

Infant Mortality.—There were 32 deaths under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 72, which, though higher than that for 1913, is below the average for this district for the five years 1909-1913 inclusive, and compares favourably with the same rate for the whole of Rural England and Wales.

The Midwives Act, 1902, is administered directly by the Kent County Council.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted.

Three cases of ophthalmia in the newly-born were notified during 1914.

The following table gives a comparison between the rates for this district and those for England and Wales:—

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Infant Mortality
England and Wales	23·8	14·0	105
97 Great Towns (including London .	25·0	14·7	114
145 Smaller Towns	23·9	12·0	104
England and Wales less the 242 Towns	22·2	13·4	93
Cranbrook Rural	20·7	12·0	72

(A.) Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in the District, viz., Small-pox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina, and the fevers known by any of the following names:—Typhus, Typhoid or Enteric, Relapsing, Continued, and Puerperal.

By a General Order of the Local Government Board, No. 58,962, dated 15th August, 1912, the diseases known as Cerebro-spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis were also made compulsorily notifiable.

By a General Order of the Local Government Board, dated 19th December, 1912, the following Regulations, viz., the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908; the Public Health (Tuberculosis in Hospitals) Regulations, 1911; and the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1911, were revoked and substituted by the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912. The last-named Regulations came into operation on the 1st of February, 1913, and had the effect of making all forms of Tuberculosis compulsorily notifiable on and after that date.

By a General Order of the Local Government Board dated 5th February, 1914, Ophthalmia Neonatorum was made compulsorily notifiable by Medical Practitioners and certified Midwives from the 1st of April, 1914.

There has been a decrease in the total number of cases of infections disease notified during 1914, being 13, compared with 78 in 1913, and there were no deaths from scarlet fever, diphtheria or any of the notifiable diseases with the exception of tuberculosis.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 11 cases compared with 18 in 1913; 4 were notified from Goudhurst and 5 from Frittenden, and 1 each from Hawkhurst and Cranbrook Seven of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Three of the cases occurred in September, two in hopper huts at Goudhurst and Hawkhurst, and 5 in October, all in one family, and improvements were carried out at this house under the Housing and Town Planning Act. The remainder of the cases were notified in January, April and December.

The cases occurred at the following age-periods:—

1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	
1	8	2	0	= 11 cases.

Diphtheria.—There were 16 cases notified, compared with 18 in 1913. Nine were notified from Hawkhurst and three from Cranbrook, the other four occurring at Goudhurst, Sandhurst, Sissinghurst and the Union Workhouse. Six were removed to the Isolation Hospital. With the exception of May, September and November, there were cases notified in every month, but January with five was the heaviest, three of them being notified from one family

The age-periods were:—

1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	
1	11	3	1	= 16 cases.

Enteric Fever.—There were 5 cases compared with 1 in 1913. Three cases were notified from one family living at a farm cottage at Benenden, and all three were removed to the Workhouse Infirmary. A sample of the water was taken for examination, and though not considered responsible for

the outbreak, I advised improvements to the drainage and sanitary arrangements. One case was a hop-picker from Glassenbury, Cranbrook, and he also was removed to the Workhouse Infirmary. The remaining case was a child of 11 years, who was notified from Hawkhurst in October. While nothing was discovered to definitely establish the source of infection, the drainage was not good, and the landlord was asked to remedy the defects.

Erysipelas.—Eight cases of erysipelas were notified compared with 11 in 1913. Three occurred in February and 2 in December, the others occurred one each in June, August and November. Three were notified from Benenden, 3 from Cranbrook, 2 from Hawkhurst, and 1 from Goudhurst. None of the cases were removed to hospital.

Puerperal Fever.—There were no cases notified during 1914.

Small-pox.—Again no cases; the last was in August, 1902.

There were three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during 1914, 1 each in May, September and October, and the child last notified died. There had been no qualified nurse in attendance at the birth of this child. Two of the cases were at Benenden and one at Hawkhurst.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and **Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis** are now by the General Order of the Local Government Board of August 16th, 1912, compulsorily notifiable, but during the past year no notifications have been received.

Tuberculosis.—There were 12 deaths from all forms of tuberculosis compared with 8 in 1913, and 7 of the 12 were due to phthisis, against 8 in 1913. One death was first notified in 1912, 6 in 1914, and 5 had not been notified.

The death-rate from all forms of the disease was 0·86 per 1,000, and the phthisis death-rate was 0·50 per 1,000 of population, as compared with rates of 0·58 in the previous year.

The following table gives a comparison of the rates for this District, and the rates for England and Wales for the five years 1907—1912, beyond which the comparative figures for the country generally are not at present available.

	1907.	1908	1909.	1910	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
TUBERCULOSIS (all forms).								
England and Wales	1·61	1·58	1·54	1·43	1·46	1·53	--	--
Cranbrook Rural—								
Death-rate	0·96	1·1	0·81	1·30	1·24	0·65	0·58	0·86
No. of Deaths.....	12	14	10	16	17	9	8	12
PHTHISIS.								
England and Wales	1·14	1·12	1·09	1·02	1·08	1·039	--	--
Cranbrook Rural—								
Death rate	0·64	0·72	0·56	0·97	0·87	0·36	0·58	0·50
No. of Deaths.....	5	9	7	12	12	5	8	7

Phthisis.—There were 17 new cases of phthisis notified compared with 8 in 1913. Most of the cases were apparently early ones; one was notified from among the hop-pickers at Goudhurst; and one was a little girl aged four, a Belgian refugee, also notified from Goudhurst. An open-air shelter was supplied to one of the patients.

Distribution of cases notified and deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1914 :—

	Notifications received during 1914	Deaths		
		Notified during 1914.	Notified previous to 1914.	Not notified.
Hawkhurst	3	1	—	1
Goudhurst	10	1	—	—
Benenden	1	2	1	—
Cranbrook	—	—	—	1
Workhouse	2	—	—	—
Three Chimneys	1	—	—	—
	17	4	1	2

There were 9 cases of other forms of tuberculosis notified, compared with 10 in 1913. Six were from Hawkhurst, 2 from Cranbrook, and 1 from Goudhurst. None of the cases of tuberculosis notified appear to have received Sanatorium treatment.

The method adopted for following up cases of tuberculosis in the Cranbrook Rural District is the same as in other parts of the Combined District. On receipt of a notification the Sanitary Inspector visits the house and inspects the premises, instructs the household how to avoid spreading the infection, and where repairs are necessary to the premises, asks the landlord to remedy the defects. On receipt of an advice that a patient has been received into a Sanatorium or Public Institution, the Sanitary Inspector again visits the house and offers to disinfect any bedding, clothing or rooms used by the patient, but unless some circumstance arises does not again visit the house.

On receipt of the returns of death from the Registrar an advice is sent to the Sanitary Inspector of all deaths from tuberculosis, and he visits the house, inquires into the health of the remainder of the household, and offers to carry out any disinfection required.

Where Sanatorium treatment is desired, the Sanitary Inspector advises the Medical Attendant to get into communication with the Tuberculosis Officer for the district, and hands him his name and address and hours of attendance. Where the houses do not permit separate sleeping accomodation for the patient an effort is made to secure an open air shelter for the use of the patient if the case is suitable for such treatment and there is sufficient ground to the house to allow it to be erected.

Table showing age groups of notifications of all Forms of Tuberculosis received during 1914 :—

	Total Number	Sex	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 25	25 and under 30	30 and under 35	35 and under 40	40 and under 45	45 and under 50	50 and under 55	55 and under 60	60 and under 65	over 80
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	M	...	1	...	1	2	1	...	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	1
	6	F	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	...	1	.	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	M	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	..	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3	F	..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	26		...	2	2	2	8	2	...	1	5	1	1	...	1	...	1

B.—Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.

Measles.—There were no deaths from measles during 1914 in this district. There was one in 1913 at Goudhurst.

Whooping Cough.—There were two deaths, both children under 1 year, one was a child aged 5 months from Hawkhurst in August, and one a child aged 3 weeks at Goudhurst in September.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years). There was one death, a child aged 4 months who died at Goudhurst in October.

Influenza.—There were 6 deaths compared with 1 in 1913. One was a child aged 10 months, who died in March at Hawkhurst; 1 was a male aged 61 who died in March at Hawkhurst; 3 were females who died in April —1 aged 64 at Hawkhurst, and 2 aged 54 and 89 at Goudhurst—and 1 was a woman aged 52 who died at Glassenbury, Cranbrook, in December.

C.—Other Diseases.

Cancer.—Reference to Table 3 will show that 29 deaths were due to this disease, equal to a rate of 2.07 per 1,000 of population as compared with 0.79 in 1913.

The following table shows the number of deaths and death-rates for this District for the years 1907—1914, with the comparative rates for England and Wales up to 1912 beyond which year the latter are not at present available :—

	1907.	1908	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913	1914.
England and Wales	0·91	0·92	0·96	0·97	0·99	0·99	—	—
Cranbrook Rural—								
Death-rate	1·36	1·29	1·29	0·73	1·60	1·09	0·79	2·07
No. of Deaths	17	16	16	9	22	15	11	29

Where information is received that a death from cancer has occurred the Sanitary Inspector undertakes the disinfection of the bedding, rooms or clothing used by the patient if requested to do so.

Hospital Accommodation and Administration.—I referred in the report for 1913 to the fact that it was not desirable to treat two different diseases in the Isolation Hospital under the present arrangement, and at the latter part of the year when the question of the reception of small-pox cases, should any arise, was being discussed, I had again to point out the unsuitability of the present Isolation Hospital premises for taking more than one disease for treatment. A combination with some other Sanitary area for the purpose of providing Isolation accommodation for small-pox was suggested and several local authorities near were communicated with with this object, but nothing had been definitely settled at the end of the year. Seventeen cases of infectious disease were treated in the Council's Isolation Hospital at Swattenden Lane, and were admitted as follows :—

January	1 case (Diphtheria)
February	2 cases ,,
May	1 case ,,
June	1 ,, ,,
July	1 ,, ,,
September	6 cases (3 Scarlet Fever, 3 Enteric Fever)
October	5 ,, (Scarlet Fever)
Total	17 cases (8 Scarlet Fever, 6 Diphtheria and 3 Enteric Fever)

Bacteriological Aids to Diagnosis.—Forty-seven specimens were sent to the Kent County Laboratory, Maidstone, for examination and were reported as follows :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total specimens examined.
Diphtheria	11	23	34
Phthisis.....	4	7	11
Typhoid.....	1	1	2
	16	31	47

Inspection of the District.—The following Acts and Orders have vastly increased the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the last few years, viz., the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909; the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912; the Tuberculosis Order, 1913: the inspections under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, together with circulars and orders pressing the necessity of watching the meat and milk supplies and being on the alert to recognise foot and mouth disease, etc.; the addition of Tuberculosis, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Anterior Poliomyelitis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum to the list of notifiable diseases, and the inspections before and during the hop-picking season.

No Adoptive Acts were in force in the Cranbrook District previous to 1914, but in 1913 the Council had under consideration the adoption of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, and certain Sections of the 1907 Act, and by an order of the L.G.B. dated 6th Nov. 1914,

Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49.

Part III. of the Act of 1907 came into force in this district on the 21st Dec., 1914.

Water. No new schemes of a public character have been undertaken during 1914. The owners of two new cottages erected desired to obtain their water supply from the stream, but I urged the Council not to agree to this arrangement, pointing out at the same time the liability to pollution of the stream, especially during the hop-picking season, and the owners finally agreed to sink a well.

I examined 12 samples of water during 1914: 5 from Hawkhurst, 1 from Sandhurst, 3 from Goudhurst, and 3 from Cranbrook. Seven of the waters were temporarily unfit for use as drinking water, but if structural repairs were carried out to the wells or they were cleaned out, they would be fit, but 5 were unfit for use as drinking waters.

Drainage.—No public schemes have been undertaken during 1914; a scheme has been under consideration for the re-drainage of the town, but owing to the war the matter has been postponed.

A number of improvements have been carried out to private premises. I made an inspection of the farm cottages at which three of the cases of typhoid fever occurred, and considered the closets were unsatisfactory and insufficient, and that it was desirable that the drainage should be re-laid, and this work was carried out. New drains and a new earth closet were also constructed to the premises occupied by the family from which the 5 cases of scarlet fever were notified in October at Frittenden.

Bye-laws.—The following are in force:—

Bye-laws for securing the decent lodging and accommodation of persons engaged in hop-picking. Adopted 17th November, 1875.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885. Adopted February 13th, and came into force April 1st, 1907.

Bye-laws with respect to New Buildings. Adopted 14th December, 1910, and allowed by the Local Government Board on 31st January, 1911.

School.	Disease.	Date of Closure.	
		From	To
Cranbrook Church of England	Chicken-pox ...	May 7	May 23
,, ,, (Infants') ...	Chicken-pox ...	Apr. 23	May 9

Schools. In consequence of my representations on the necessity for improvements in the sanitary arrangements at the Church of England Schools, Hawkhurst, the Managers of the School agreed to put in new closet pans, each with a separate flush cistern, in place of the old troughs to which I had taken exception.

There were only two schools closed during 1914 on account of the prevalence of infectious disease.

The number of **Slaughter-houses** in the district is the same as last year; they have been frequently visited, and only 4 defects were found, which

were remedied. There are no bye-laws in force in this district. The following is a list of the Slaughterhouses in the district:—

Benenden	2
Cranbrook	2
Sissinghurst	1
Frittenden	2
Goudhurst	3
Hawkhurst	3
Sandhurst	1
	14

Hop-picking.—The accommodation provided for the hop-pickers has been frequently inspected, and improvements have been effected in connection with water supplies and sanitary arrangements. Arrangements were made to supply the medical staff of the Hop-pickers' Mission with diphtheria and typhoid outfits and tubes of antitoxin, and accommodation is prepared at the Isolation Hospital for the reception of cases of infectious disease as far as the resources of the Hospital will allow.

The occupation of the huts is getting an important question. There is a tendency on the part of some growers to allow an extension of time for the occupation of the huts, in some cases even during the winter months. I need hardly say that from a sanitary point of view this lengthened occupation is most undesirable.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—The following is a list of the dairies, etc., in the district; they have been inspected from time to time, and any defects found have been remedied:—

	Cowkeepers, Dairymen, and Purveyors.	Cowkeepers and Purveyors.	Cowkeepers.	Dairymen and Purveyors.	Dairymen.	Cowkeepers and Dairymen.	Total.
Benenden	1	2	1	—	—	—	4
Cranbrook	1	6	—	1	—	4	12
Frittenden	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Goudhurst	3	2	—	—	—	1	6
Hawkhurst	3	6	—	—	—	2	11
Sandhurst	—	2	—	1	—	—	3
	8	18	1	2	—	9	38

Regulations have been in force since 1907.

No tuberculous milk or cows have been found.

Scavenging.—There are no regular collections, but in Cranbrook the refuse is collected by contract per day, as circumstances require it.

Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909.—The Council have had no schemes for the erection of cottages under consideration, but during the

year 18 new houses have been built as the result of private enterprise, and 7 houses have been voluntarily closed.

The following is a statement of work carried out under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, as required by Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910:—

1. Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purpose of section 17 of the Act of 1909	125
2. Number of dwelling houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
3. Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
4. Number of Closing Orders made	0
5. Number of dwelling houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	69
6. Number of dwelling houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put in a fit state for human habitation	0
7. Number of dwelling houses dealt with under section 15 of the Act	28
8. Number of dwelling houses dealt with under the Public Health Acts	0
9. Number of dwelling houses dealt with by simple requests or informal notice	41
10. Number of dwelling houses not requiring remedy	0
In hand at end of year	56

7 houses have been voluntarily closed during 1914 :— 1 at Benenden inspected in 1912, 2 at Cranbrook inspected in 1913, 1 at Goudhurst inspected in 1912, 3 at Hawkhurst 1 inspected in 1913 and 2 inspected in 1914.

Of the 37 houses inspected in 1912, the year in which the inspections began, 3 were dealt with in that year, 32 in 1913, and the remaining houses were voluntarily closed during 1914.

Of the 99 houses inspected during 1913, 3 were in a satisfactory conditon of repair, 39 were dealt with during 1913, 3 were voluntarily closed and 54 were in hand at the end of 1913, and during 1914 the repairs in 47 of the houses were completed, and 3 were voluntarily closed, one at Fir Tree Cottage, Cranbrook, being demolished.

The following is an analysis of the defects revealed by the inspections for 1914 :—

With the exception of one house, all had a satisfactory supply of water in regard to quality, but three wells had structural defects.

The storage for food was unsatisfactory in 12 houses.

The closets in 48 houses had structural defects.

Drains and their accessories were defective in 34 instances and 21 had insufficient ventilation. Three cesspools were unsatisfactory.

The ventilation in 2 living rooms and 3 bedrooms was insufficient, and there was evidence of dampness in 10 living rooms, 15

bed-rooms, and 10 sculleries. One-hundred-and-one houses had no damp course.

The external defects related to:—walls, 14, roofs, 20, chimneys, 10, gutters, 41, R.W.P., 6, R.W., 2.

The internal defects were:—living rooms, walls, 64, ceilings, 94, floors, 47, windows, 57; staircases, 23; bed-rooms, walls, 62, ceilings, 98, floors, 35, windows, 12; sculleries, walls, 67, ceilings, 97, floors, 81, sinks, 64, coppers, 2.

Unsatisfactory refuse disposal, 104.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—At the end of the year there were **13** Factories and 120 Workshops on the Register, distributed throughout the various parishes as follows:—

		Bakehouses.	Other trades connected with food or drinks.	Laundries.	Other trades connected with clothing.	Various.		
FACTORIES.	Benenden	—	—	—	—	—		
	Cranbrook	—	1	—	—	3	3	13
	Frittenden	—	—	—	—	—		
	Goudhurst	—	—	—	—	2	2	
	Hawkhurst	—	2	1	—	4	7	
	Sandhurst	—	—	—	—	—		
WORKSHOPS.	Benenden	3	—	1	—	6	10	133
	Cranbrook	5	1	3	13	21	43	120
	Frittenden	1	—	—	1	5	7	
	Goudhurst	3	—	4	2	6	15	
	Hawkhurst	4	—	9	8	17	38	
	Sandhurst	2	—	—	3	3	8	
	TOTAL	18		17	27	58		

Cranbrook Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT.

PENDENNIS,

CRANBROOK.

April 15th, 1915

To the Chairman and Members of the Cranbrook Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report or the year ended December 31st, 1914.

Inspection of District.—The total number of inspections made during the past year, including inspections made under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, was 816.

The total number of nuisances discovered and dealt with, 112.

Preliminary Notices served during the past year, 15, no Statutory Notices being necessary.

Complaints.—The total number of complaints received in respect of nuisances, 12; all have been dealt with.

House Refuse Removed.—House refuse is removed in the town of Cranbrook, and the cesspools in Cranbrook and Sissinghurst are emptied by means of a properly equipped cesspool exhauster.

Drainage.—The total number of drains found to be defective, 26. Most of the defects have been remedied.

The total number of private house drains that have been connected with the Main Sewer, 4.

The Local Government Board have approved of my plans for the construction of the North Road Sewage Disposal Works, Goudhurst, and the work will be carried out at an early date.

House Accomodation.—There have been erected during the year 18 new houses.

Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909.—The total number of houses inspected under the above Act is 125, and the defects found in 67 have been remedied, 7 houses have been voluntarily closed.

Hopper Huts.—During the hop-picking season 98 farms were visited for the purpose of inspecting the housing accommodation for persons engaged in hop-picking. Several improvements were made in connection with water supplies and sanitary conveniences for the encampments.

Slaughter-houses.—There are 14 slaughter-houses in the district, which have been kept under supervision as much as possible, 4 defects were found, and in all of them the defects have been remedied.

Disinfection.—The total number of houses disinfected, 26 ; schools, 2. No bedding or clothing destroyed by order.

Samples of Water.—During the year 14 samples of water were submitted for analysis. Some of these were found to be unsatisfactory for drinking purposes.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are 13 Factories, and 120 Workshops in the district, 107 inspections were made, the number of defects found and remedied, 4.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—There are 36 cowsheds in the district. Inspections made, 68 ; defects found and remedied, 4.

Letters, Reports, etc.—The total number of letters, notices, and reports sent out during the year was 699.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. BAILEY.

TABLE I

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous years. Cranbrook.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.				of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate			Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	12,330	—	242	19·6	155	12·5	3	8	23	95	155	12·5
1910	12,257	—	265	21·6	175	14·2	6	—	20	75	169	13·7
1911	13,689	239	240	17·5	129	9·4	6	13	12	50	136	9·9
1912	13,789	221	220	16·1	163	11·8	10	11	28	126	164	11·8
1913	13,870	243	243	17·5	158	11·4	15	7	16	66	150	10·08
1914	13959	289	290	20·7	170	12·2	18	15	21	72	168	12·0

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 41,315
Total population at all ages, 13,689.
Number of inhabited houses, 3,100.
Average number of persons per house. 1·1.

} At Census of 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914 in Cranbrook Rural District.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.										Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.						Benenden.	Cranbrook.	Frittenden.	Goudhurst.	Hawkhurst.	Sandhurst.	Sissinghurst.	Three Chimneys.	Workhouse.		
		Under 1.	1-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-45.	45-65.	65 and upwards.										
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	16	—	1	11	3	1	—	—	—	3	—	1	9	1	1	—	1	6
Erysipelas	8	—	—	2	—	1	4	1	3	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	11	—	1	8	2	—	—	—	—	1	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	1 W.I.
Enteric Fever	5	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17	—	2	2	6	5	1	1	1	—	10	3	—	—	1	2	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	9	—	—	2	4	3	—	—	—	2	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	69	3	4	29	15	11	5	2	8	12	5	17	23	1	1	2	1	17

Isolation Hospital, Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook.
Provided by the Cranbrook Rural District Council

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death, during the Year 1914, in the Cranbrook Rural District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All causes—Certified	164	20	1	1	1	8	15	35	83	—
All causes—Uncertified	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	7	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	2	13
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	4	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	29	—	—	—	—	2	2	13	12	—
Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	30	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	24	7
Bronchitis	9	—	—	—	—		—	2	7	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1	1		—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	4	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alcoholism	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	—	—	—	—		1	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	6	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined Diseases	43	5	—	1	—	2	2	7	26	6
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	1
All causes	167	21	1	1	1	8	15	36	84	37

TABLE IV.

Cranbrook Rural District.—Infant Mortality during the Year, 1914. *Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.*

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Mth.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Suffocation, overlying	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Premature Birth	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	—	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	4
Other Causes	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Septic poisoning from burns	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	4	1	1	3	9	3	4	—	5	21

Births in the year: Legitimate, 281; illegitimate, 9. Deaths in the year: Legitimate infants, 20; illegitimate infants, 1.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, & Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	15	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	131	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report).	—	—	—
Total	146	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of ventilation	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses	3	3	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.											Outwork in Infected Premises, sec. 109, 110		
	Lists received from Employers.						Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils.	Prosecutions.			Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises.			
	Twice in the year.			Once in the year.				Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.	Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	Failing to send lists.		Instances.	Orders made.	Prosecutions.
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.									
		Contractrs	Workmen.		Contractrs	Workmen.								
Wearing Apparel—Making, &c. ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	18
Other Trades connected with Foods and Drinks	—
Laundries	17
Other Trades connected with Clothing	27
Various	58
Total	120

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	—
Reports sent to H.M. Inspector	—
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101)	2
In use at the end of the year	—
	2

J. S. TEW,

Medical Officer of Health.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

CRANBROOK.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

Cranbrook Rural Sanitary District

FOR THE YEAR

1915,

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.

CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.

Area and Population.

The following Tables give the area, population of the District, and other figures, as shown by the Census of 1911 and previous years :—

No. of Regn. District.	Area in Statute Acres.		Inhabited Houses.				Population.			
	Land and Inland Water.	Inland Water only.	1881	1891	1901	1911	1881	1891	1901	1911
53	41,315	110	2,754	2,787	2,834	3,100	13,761	13,730	12,944	13,689

	Area in Statute acres (Land & Inland Water).	Families or Separate Occupiers.		Population.				Institutions, large establishments, Vessels, etc., 1911 (included in Cols. 4 & 6).	
		1901.	1911.	1901.	1911.			No.	Population.
					Persons.	Males.	Females		
Cols. 1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8	9.	10.
Benenden ...	6,693	312	327	1,336	1,434	768	666	5	136
Cranbrook ...	19,372	864	916	3,949	4,061	2,004	2,057	10	237
Frittenden ...	3,509	194	212	844	898	436	462	4	22
Goudhurst ...	9,797	598	663	2,725	3,019	1,499	1,520	17	261
Hawkhurst ...	6,523	706	793	3,136	3,344	1,544	1,800	6	178
Sandhurst ...	4,421	222	231	954	933	459	474	—	—
Totals ...	41,315	2,896	3,142	12,944	13,689	6,710	6,979	42	834

Population.—The statistics for 1915 are based on two populations, for the birth-rate the estimated population at the middle of 1914, that is, before the outbreak of war and the consequent changes in the population had taken place, has been used, and for the death-rate the civil portion only of the population has been used as a basis, and all military deaths have been excluded from the local death returns. According to the figures supplied by the Local Government Board, the civil population for the Cranbrook Rural District is 12,806.

Births and the Birth-rate.—Two hundred and forty-one births were registered in the district and two births were transferred to it, making the net births 243 and the net birth-rate 17·4. This is calculated on the estimated population at the middle of 1914.

Deaths and the Death-rate.—One hundred and ninety-three deaths were registered in the district, eighteen non-residents were transferred away, and the deaths of seventeen residents who had died away from the district were transferred to it, making the net deaths 192 and the net death-rate 15·0 ; this is calculated on the civil portion only of the population.

This is an exceptionally high rate for this district. One hundred and nine deaths over 65 years were registered compared with 84 in 1914. The rate for Rural England and Wales for 1915 was 14·8. On a normal population the death-rate would have been 13·6.

There were 2 deaths due to one or other of the following epidemic diseases, and I give the rate per 1,000 living for this district and for Rural England and Wales :—

		Rate per 1,000 living.	
		Cranbrook Rural.	Rural England and Wales.
Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years)...	1		
Diphtheria	—	0· 0	0·14
Measles.....	1	0· 07	0·32
Whooping-cough	—	0· 00	0·19
Enteric Fever	—	0· 0	0· 4
Scarlet Fever	—	0· 0	0· 5
Small-pox...	—	0· 0	0·00
	2	0· 15	

Infant Mortality.—There were 21 deaths under 1 year, giving a rate of 86, compared with 21 deaths and a rate of 72 in 1914. There was one death due to measles. None of the deaths under 1 year were due to diarrhœa or enteritis. Nine were due to the group "Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth," compared with 7 in 1914.

Notification of Births Act, 1907-1915.—No scheme for the care of mothers and young children had been considered in this district at the end of 1915. It is now, however, compulsory for all medical practitioners and midwives to notify to the Medical Officer of Health particulars of all births they attend, and for the Medical Officer of Health to forward a duplicate of each notification he receives to the County Medical Officer of Health. The Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915, grants facilities to Local Authorities to organise maternity and child welfare schemes, and the Local Government Board are urging the immediate employment of

Health Visitors, even though complete schemes may be allowed to remain in abeyance for the time being. The Medical Officer of the Local Government Board has issued an elaborate memorandum outlining the scope of the Act, and defining what is understood by a complete scheme, and it is intended that later every district should be linked up to such an organisation as he has outlined, either by inclusion in a County Scheme or by uniting with other adjacent areas for the purpose.

The Midwives Act, 1902, is administered directly by the Kent County Council.

Two cases of ophthalmia in the newly-born were notified during 1915.

The following table gives a comparison between the rates for this District and those for England and Wales :—

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Infant Mortality
England and Wales	21·8	15·1	110
96 Great Towns (including London)	22·8	15·6	117
148 Smaller Towns	21·6	14·0	114
England and Wales less the 244 Towns	20·7	14·8	98
Cranbrook Rural	17·4	15·0	86

A.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, or by Orders or Regulations under the Public Health Act, 1875, the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in the District, viz.. Small-pox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina, and the Fevers known by any of the following names : Typhus, Typhoid or Enteric, Relapsing, Continued and Puerperal, also Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Acute Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Measles and German Measles.

As required by the Measles Order, 1915, notification forms were supplied to all Medical Practitioners in the district, and notices drawing the attention of parents and guardians to their duties under this Act were posted in public places and also distributed in various suitable ways.

There were 57 cases notified from all causes, including tuberculosis compared with 69 in 1914.

Diphtheria.—Ten cases were notified, six occurring in April ; of this number four were notified from an Institution for Children at Hawkhurst,

where two of the nurses contracted diphtheria, and the infection was conveyed to two of the children ; efficient measures were taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and no further cases were notified.

Another of the April cases was a girl from Cranbrook who was already in hospital, where she had been admitted with scarlet fever and had developed diphtheria.

One of the September cases was a hop-picker's child. The doctor in attendance on the boy instructed the parents to delay their return home until a report was received on a swab he had sent for examination, but when he visited the place in company with the Sanitary Inspector to arrange for the boy's removal to hospital, it was found the family had returned to London.

The only case in December was a girl who had developed diphtheria whilst a patient at the Cottage Hospital, where she was isolated and treated. There were no deaths from diphtheria.

The age-periods were :—

1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45	
2	5	3	0	=10 cases.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 26 cases notified. All four cases from Hawkhurst were connected with a private school there ; the first case being one of the housemaids who was notified in January, and cases followed in February, March and May. I made an inspection of the premises with the Sanitary Inspector, and recommended that the privies should be converted into W.C.'s, as the water mains came to the house and there was ample land for the disposal of the sewage.

The cases from Goudhurst also referred to a private school. The first case was notified early in February and four other cases followed, all in that month. The patients were removed to the School Sanatorium and the outbreak ended.

In March four cases were notified from one family at Cranbrook. A relative had been visiting there whose baby was stated to have had "measles." An inspection of the house showed the drainage to be very defective, and a special inspection under the Housing and Town Planning Act was made, and the owner asked to carry out the necessary repairs.

Four cases notified in September from Cranbrook were the children of hop-pickers from Bethnal Green, where scarlet fever was very prevalent.

In consequence of several cases having been notified from Frittenden School, I visited there in August and saw two children, one of whom had been absent in July with "sore throat." The mother was advised to call in a doctor, but stated there was nothing seriously the matter, and the girl returned to school and had been mixing freely with other children. Early in August two children with whom this girl had associated were taken ill with scarlet fever, and it was then found that she was peeling. The school was closed from August 20—27, and was disinfected before re-opening.

The cases occurred at the following age-periods :—

1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	
3	17	5	1	= 26 cases

Erysipelas.—Four cases were notified. They were all mild cases notified from different parts of the district.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.—There was one case, a girl aged 12 years, who was notified from Goudhurst in March. I saw the case with the medical attendant, and meningo-coccic serum was administered. A sample of cerebro-spinal fluid was sent to the County Laboratory for examination, and gave a positive result. I visited the case on several occasions, and found the patient making favourable progress. We were unable to trace the source of infection, but a brother of the patient had recently returned from Gibraltar, and had been home on leave, and was stated not to have been well then. I communicated with the Medical Officer of the Barracks where he was stationed, and was informed that the man showed no signs of the disease. As there was no room in the existing hospital for the treatment of this case, the patient was nursed at home, and the Council provided a nurse for her.

Poliomyelitis.—There were two cases notified, both in September, at Cranbrook, and although notified on consecutive days, they apparently had no association with each other.

The first case was a boy aged 3 years who was staying with his mother and sister at Cranbrook for the hop-picking, and it was at first suspected that he was suffering as the result of a fall in the hop-fields. The boy's home was at Folkestone, and as his mother was very anxious to return there and I was able to arrange with the Medical Officer of Health for his admission to the local Hospital for observation and treatment, the Council agreed to defray the expense of conveying the family to Folkestone by private motor, and the Sanitary Inspector made the necessary arrangements and conveyed the child to the Hospital at Folkestone.

The second case was a boy aged 7 years whose home was in Cranbrook. Nothing to indicate the source of infection could be detected; the boy was nursed at home and the other children kept from school.

Puerperal Fever.—There were no cases notified during 1915.

Small-pox.—Again no cases; the last was in August, 1902.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—There were two cases notified, a doctor being in attendance at both confinements.

Tuberculosis.—There were seven deaths from all forms of tuberculosis, giving a mortality rate of 0·54 per 1,000 living. Three of the deaths had been notified as cases in 1915, one in 1914, and three had not, apparently, been notified.

The following table gives a comparison of the rates for this District, and the rates for England and Wales for the five years 1907—1912, beyond which the comparative figures for the country generally are not at present available :—

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
TUBERCULOSIS (all forms).									
England and Wales ...	1·61	1·58	1·54	1·43	1·46	1·53	—	—	—
Cranbrook Rural—									
Death-rate	0·96	1·1	0·81	1·30	1·24	0·65	0·58	0·86	0·54
No. of Deaths...	12	14	10	16	17	9	8	12	7
PHTHISIS.									
England and Wales ...	1·14	1·12	1·09	1·02	1·08	1·039	—	—	—
Cranbrook Rural—									
Death rate	0·64	0·72	0·56	0·97	0·87	0·36	0·58	0·50	0·23
No. of Deaths...	5	9	7	12	12	5	8	7	3

Phthisis.—There were eleven new cases notified, compared with 17 in 1914, and three deaths, and three received Sanatorium treatment.

Distribution of cases notified and deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1915 :—

	Notifications received during 1915.	DEATHS		
		Notified during 1915.	Notified previous to 1915.	Not notified.
Hawkhurst	2	—	—	—
Goudhurst	4	1	1	—
Frittenden	1	—	—	—
Cranbrook	4	1	—	—
Workhouse	—	—	—	—
Three Chimneys	—	—	—	—
	11	2	1	—

Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.—There was only one new case notified during 1915, a case of tuberculosis of the spine in a girl aged 20, who died during the year.

Table showing age group of cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1915 :—

	Sex	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 25	25 and under 30	30 and under 35	35 and under 40	40 and under 45	45 and under 50	50 and under 55	55 and under 60	60 and under 65	65 and over	Total Number
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	M	...	...	1	..	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	6
	F	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
		...	...	3	...	...	2	2	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	12

The procedure described in the report for 1914 has been carried out during 1915 as far as practicable, and I have made two special visits in regard to one of the cases notified to me.

B.—NON-NOTIFIABLE ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.—The only death was a child aged 4 months who died in April at Sandhurst.

Whooping Cough.—There was one death, a little girl aged 4 years, who died in December at Cranbrook.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years).—There was one death from gastro-enteritis, a child aged 12 months, who died in October at Goudhurst.

Influenza.—There were fourteen deaths from influenza compared with six in 1914 ; eleven of the deaths referred to persons over 65 years of age.

C.—OTHER DISEASES.

Cancer.—There were twenty-two deaths compared with twenty-nine in 1914.

The following table shows the number of deaths and death-rates for this District for the years 1907—1915, with the comparative rates for England and Wales up to 1912, beyond which year the latter are not at present available :—

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
England & Wales.....	0 91	0 92	0·96	0 97	0 99	0·99	—	—	–
Cranbrook Rural—									
Death-rate	1·36	1·29	1·29	0·73	1 60	1·09	0·79	2·07	1 71
No. of Deaths	17	16	16	9	22	15	11	29	22

Disinfection of rooms occupied by cancer cases is carried out where householders ask for it.

Hospital Accommodation.—During 1915 the desirability of erecting additional hospital accommodation has been under consideration, and in June, in company with several members of the committee, I inspected a suitable site covering two acres of ground, which the Council later acquired. Additional land is available if required later. It is not intended to go forward with building, however, until the close of the war.

At the close of 1914 an agreement was under discussion to reserve the Isolation Hospital belonging to the Hollingbourne Rural District as a Small-pox Hospital for the Maidstone Rural, Cranbrook Rural, Tenterden Rural, Tenterden Urban, and the Hollingbourne Rural Districts, and to admit patients from the Hollingbourne Rural District suffering from ordinary infectious disease, to the Isolation Hospital of the Maidstone Rural District at Coxheath, Loose, if accommodation was available, the contribution of payments from the various districts to be as follows :—

Maidstone R.D.C.	£10
Cranbrook	£25
Hollingbourne	£10
Tenterden R.D.C.	£10
,, U.D.C.	£7

The total expenses are to be equally shared in proportion of population between the five District Councils, irrespective of the district from which patients have been received.

Eleven cases of infectious disease were treated in the Council's Isolation Hospital at Swattenden Lane, and were admitted as follows ;—

January.....	1 case, Scarlet Fever
February	2 cases
May	1 case
July	3 cases
September.....	4 cases
Total ...	11 cases

Bacteriological Aids to Diagnosis.—Sixty-nine specimens were sent to the Kent County Laboratory, Maidstone, for examination, and were reported as follows ;—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total specimens examined.
Diphtheria	11	35	46
Phthisis	2	14	16
Typhoid	1M	1	2
Paratyphoid	1M	1	2
Cancer	—	1	1
Anthrax	—	1	1
	15	54	69

M Military cases.

Inspection of the District.—The following Acts and Orders have vastly increased the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the last few years, viz., the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909; the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912; the Tuberculosis Order, 1913; the inspections under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, together with circulars and orders pressing the necessity of watching the meat and milk supplies and being on the alert to recognise foot and mouth disease, &c.; the addition of Tuberculosis, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Anterior Poliomyelitis, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Measles to the list of notifiable diseases, and the inspections before and during the hop-picking season.

No Adoptive Acts were in force in the Cranbrook District previous to 1914, but in 1913 the Council had under consideration the adoption of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, and certain Sections of the 1907 Act, and by an Order of the L.G.B. dated 6th November, 1914, Sections 34, 35, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49. Part III. of the Act of 1907 came into force in this district on the 21st December, 1914.

On application to the Local Government Board the Rural District Council were invested with urban powers with regard to Section 25 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as from January 1st, 1915 (Drainage of Houses).

Water.—I examined twelve samples of water sent to me for analysis from the following parishes:—

Goudhurst	3.
Cranbrook	4.
Hawkhurst	1.
Frittenden	2.
Sandhurst	1.
Kilndown	1.

In four instances the water was satisfactory; in six the water was unfit for drinking purposes; and in three instances improvements to the wells were necessary to render the water fit for consumption.

Drainage.—During 1915 the Council agreed to construct an Outfall Works for Goudhurst and a scheme costing £600 was agreed to, and the work was practically completed at the end of the year. No other special work of a public character has been undertaken I have made several inspections in regard to private premises, and numerous small improvements have been carried out.

Bye-laws.—The following are in force: —

Bye-laws for securing the decent l lging and accommodation of persons engaged in hop-picki . Adopted 17th November, 1875.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885. Adopted February 13th, and came into force April 1st, 1907.

Bye-laws with respect to New Buildings. Adopted 14th December, 1910, and allowed by the Local Government Board on 31st January, 1911.

Schools.—The following schools were closed during 1915 on account of infectious disease :—

School.	Disease.	Date of Closure.	
		From	To
Frittenden	Scarlet fever ...	Aug. 20	Aug. 27

Slaughter-houses.—The following is a list of the slaughter-houses in the district. They have been inspected and any defects found have been remedied :—

Benenden	2
Cranbrook	2
Sissinghurst	1
Frittenden	2
Goudhurst	3
Hawkhurst	3
Sandhurst	1
	14

At the request of the Council I inspected some premises for which an application had been received for permission to be used for slaughtering purposes. Although the position was near the town, the premises were well away from any dwelling-houses, and I considered them suitable for the purpose.

Hop-picking.—There are now 1,859 huts in the district, in addition to any tents, barns or sheds that may be used, and the usual inspections have been carried out.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—They have been subjected to the usual inspections, and all defects have been dealt with. The following is a list of premises in the district :—

	Cowkeepers, Dairymen, and Purveyors.	Cowkeepers and Purveyors.	Cowkeepers.	Dairymen and Purveyors.	Dairymen.	Cowkeepers and Dairymen.	Total.
Benenden	1	2	1	—	—	—	4
Cranbrook	—	8	—	1	2	4	15
Frittenden	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Goudhurst	—	2	—	—	4	—	6
Hawkhurst	3	6	—	—	—	2	11
Sandhurst	—	2	—	—	1	—	3
	4	20	1	1	7	8	41

Regulations have been in force since 1907.

No tuberculous milk or cows have been found.

Scavenging.—There are no regular collections, but in Cranbrook the refuse is collected by contract per day, as circumstances require it.

Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.—The following is a statement of work carried out under the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, as required by Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910;—

1. Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909...	89
2. Number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
3. Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
4. Number of Closing Orders made	0
Closed voluntarily	1
5. Number of dwelling-houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	27
6. Number of dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put in a fit state for human habitation	0
7. Number of dwelling-houses dealt with under Section 15 of the Act	11
8. Number of dwelling-houses dealt with under the Public Health Acts	11
9. Number of dwelling-houses dealt with by simple requests or informal notice	41
10. Number of dwelling-houses not requiring remedy	6
In hand at end of year	55

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—At the end of the year there were 14 Factories and 118 Workshops on the Register, distributed throughout the various parishes as follows:—

		Bakehouses.	Other trades connected with food or drinks.	Laundries.	Other trades connected with clothing.	Various.		
FACTORIES.	Benenden.....	—	—	—	—	—		
	Cranbrook	—	1	—	—	3	3	14
	Frittenden	—	—	—	—	—	1	
	Goudhurst	—	—	—	—	2	10	
	Hawkhurst.....	—	2	1	—	4		
	Sandhurst	—	—	—	—	1		
WORKSHOPS.	Benenden.....	3	—	1	—	6	9	132
	Cranbrook	5	—	3	13	21	46	118
	Frittenden	1	—	1	—	4	6	
	Goudhurst	3	—	4	2	6	17	
	Hawkhurst.....	4	—	9	8	17	45	
	Sandhurst	2	—	—	3	3	9	
		17		18	26	57		

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. H. Bailey, is appended, together with the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board and the Home Office.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. TEW.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous years. Cranbrook.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.					
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.				of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.			
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate			Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1910	12,257	—	265	21·6	175	14·2	6	—	20	75	169	13·7		
1911	13,689	239	240	17·5	129	9·4	6	13	12	50	136	9·9		
1912	13,789	221	220	16·1	163	11·8	10	11	28	126	164	11·8		
1913	13,870	243	243	17·5	158	11·4	15	7	16	66	150	10·08		
1914	13,959	289	290	20·7	170	12·2	18	15	21	72	168	12·0		
1915	12,806	241	243	17·4	193	15·1	18	17	21	86	192	15·0		

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 41,315
Total population at all ages 13,689
Number of inhabited houses 3,100
Average number of persons per house .. .. 4·1

} At Census of 1911.

TABLE II.

Casas of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1915 in Cranbrook Rural District.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality.									Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.							Benenden.	Cranbrook.	Frittenden.	Goudhurst.	Hawkhurst.	Sandhurst.	Sissinghurst.	Three Chimneys	Workhouse.	
		Under 1.	1-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-45.	45-65.	65 and upwards.										
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	10	—	2	5	3	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	26	—	3	17	5	1	—	—	3	11	3	5	4	—	—	—	—	15
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	—	—	3	1	5	2	—	—	4	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	57	2	6	27	10	8	4	—	4	21	6	13	13	—	—	—	—	19

Isolation Hospital, Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook.
Provided by the Cranbrook Rural District Council.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1915 in the Cranbrook Rural District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All causes { Certified	189	21	1	2	6	6	16	29	108	—
All causes { Uncertified	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	14	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	11	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	11
Tuberculous Meningitis	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	22	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	14	—
Rheumatic Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	30	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	21	6
Bronchitis	15	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	11	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	3
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	6	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Alcoholism	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	3	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Suicide	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Other Defined Diseases	57	5	—	—	2	1	7	7	35	9
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
All causes	192	21	2	2	6	6	16	30	109	46

TABLE IV.

Cranbrook Rural District.—Infant Mortality during the Year, 1915. *Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.*

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Tl. und'r 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes—Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Injury at Birth	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Debility	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Premature Birth	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Other Causes	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	4
Totals	10	3	—	—	13	2	1	4	1	21

Births in the year: Legitimate, 226; illegitimate, 17. Deaths in the year: Legitimate infants, 17; illegitimate infants. 4.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, & Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	11	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	101	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report).	—	—	—
Total	112	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses	2	2	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.											Outwork in Infected Premises, sec. 109, 110		
	Lists received from Employers.						Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.	Prosecutions.		Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises.			
	Twice in the year.			Once in the year.					Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists.	Failing to send lists.		Instances.	Orders made.	Prosecutions.
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.									
		Contractrs	Workmen.		Contractrs	Workmen.								
Wearing Apparel—Making, &c. ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sacks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	17
Other Trades connected with Foods and Drinks	—
Laundries	17
Other Trades connected with Clothing	27
Various	58
Total	119

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	—
Reports sent to H.M. Inspector	—
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101)	2
In use at the end of the year	—
	2

J. S. TEW,

Medical Officer of Health.

Cranbrook Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT.

PENDENNIS, CRANBROOK,

May 9th, 1916.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cranbrook Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1915.

Inspection of District.—The total number of inspections made during the year, including the inspections made under the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, was 621.

Nuisances.—Total number of nuisances discovered and dealt with was 160.

Notices.—Preliminary Notices served during the year were 3. No Statutory Notices were necessary.

Complaints.—Total number of complaints was 6, and all have been dealt with.

House Refuse Removed, etc.—House refuse is removed in the town of Cranbrook, and the cesspools in the town of Cranbrook and Sissinghurst are emptied by a properly equipped cesspool exhauster.

Drainage and Sewerage.—A piece of new sewer, consisting of 70 yards of 6 socket pipes, was laid at Highgate, Hawkhurst.

The Outfall Works, North Road, Goudhurst, are nearing completion.

The Outfall Works at Wilsley, Beresford Road, Ockley, and Cockshott, are kept under supervision as much as possible.

New Houses Erected.—During the year 10 new houses have been erected by private enterprise.

Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.—The total number of houses inspected under the above Act is 89; the defects, found in 27, have been remedied, and 1 voluntarily closed.

Total number of inspections, 89; re-inspections, 110. Total, 199.

Hopper Huts.—During the hop-picking season 100 farms were visited, for the purpose of inspecting the housing accommodation for persons engaged in hop-picking. Several new huts were erected during the year. Number of huts 1,859, not including tents, barns, or sheds.

Slaughter-houses.—There are 14 slaughter-houses in the district, which have been kept under supervision as much as possible, and any defects found have been made good by request.

Disinfection.—Total number of houses disinfected is 19. No bedding or clothing destroyed by order.

Samples of Water.—During the year 6 samples of water were analysed; some of these were found to be unsatisfactory for drinking purposes.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are 14 factories and 118 workshops in the district; 112 inspections were made, 5 defects found and remedied.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—There are 41 in the district. Inspections made, 58; defects found and remedied, 3.

Letters, Reports, etc.—Total number of letters, reports, etc., sent out during the year was 574.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. BAILEY.